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ABSTRACT

Since 1972, Head Start Policy Councils, Policy Committees, and Parent Committees have provided leadership supporting the involvement of parents in local Head Start programs. This video-based training package is designed to increase the knowledge and skills of Policy Council members and to positively influence participants' attitudes toward being a Policy Council member. The facilitator's manual is presented in four parts. Part 1 of the manual provides preparation material for the workshop facilitator: an overview of the training program, background on parent involvement in Head Start, suggestions for planning effective training sessions, and the videotape script. Part 2 presents instructions for the introductory training workshop, focusing on the key points in the videotape and providing sample discussion questions for each key issue. Part 3 contains instructions for four follow-up workshops dealing with: (1) benefits of Policy Council membership; (2) roles and responsibilities of Policy Council members; (3) shared decision making; and (4) important issues for Policy Council members presented in the video. Workshops range in length from 1.5 to 2.5 hours. Workshop instructions contain guidelines for all the activities. Part 4 of the manual contains 13 resources on Head Start history and practice and on adult learning. Handouts for workshop participants include sample answer keys. The 22-minute videotape presents the experiences of several parents on a council, the operation of the Policy Council in making decisions and developing policies on staff hiring and other issues, and highlights parents discussing their involvement and the benefits of Policy Council membership. (Contains 13 resources.)(KB)

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